MICHIGAN COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

West Michigan University/International Food Protection Training Institute
Kendall Center, Conference Rooms 300-302
50 West Jackson Street, Battle Creek, Michigan 49018

MEETING MINUTES APRIL 13, 2011

PRESENT:

Don Coe, Chairperson, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Velmar Green, Vice Chairperson, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Jennifer Fike, Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Diane Hanson, Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Bob Kennedy Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Keith Creagh, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chairperson Coe called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to order at 9:02 a.m. on April 13, 2011. Commissioner Fike called the roll with Commissioners Coe, Green, Fike, Hanson, Kennedy, and Director Creagh present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR APRIL 13, 2011. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FIKE. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: COMMISSIONER FIKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 16, 2011, MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GREEN. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be held on June 15, 2011, at GreenStone Farm Credit Services, 3515 West Road, East Lansing.

COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL

Commissioners Coe, Fike, and Green traveled to attend yesterday's tour and today's meeting. Commissioners Hanson and Kennedy traveled to attend today's meeting.

On March 26, Commissioner Hanson also traveled to Superior Game Ranch in Cornell for a tour of their operation as related to the feral hog situation, and she attended the Delta Conservation District Annual Meeting on April 5 in Escanaba. On April 1, she attended the Growing UP Agriculture Association meeting in Escanaba, which is an Upper Peninsula (UP) organization for farmers. Because of its concerns, the

organization adopted a resolution to be presented to the Commission encouraging the continuance of livestock inspections at the Mackinac Bridge, stressing that it would assist in preventing the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) into the animal population of the UP. Copies of the resolution were presented to the Commission for consideration.

On April 7, Commissioner Coe traveled to Lansing to attend the Rural Agenda for Michigan meeting between Michigan State University (MSU) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), which brought various groups together to discuss an agenda for rural development. Also that day, he was honored to receive the Advocate Award from the Interagency Migrant Resource Committee. On April 8, he attended the Michigan Land and Prosperity Summit at the Kellogg Center for a discussion of land policy and land management issues throughout the state. An understanding seems to be developing that rural development is based upon viable economic units within regions, with encouragement to the various groups working in this area to potentially establish regional economic development councils.

There was no other travel submitted for approval.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMISSIONERS' TRAVEL. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FIKE. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Green expressed continued concern regarding P.A. 116, noting the majority of farmers do not realize this program will potentially be cut and the Michigan Farm Bureau has been fairly silent on the issue. Because P.A. 116 is the only land preservation program in the state, its elimination will be a huge issue for agriculture.

Commissioner Fike concurred with Commissioner Green on concerns regarding P.A. 116 and the elimination of that tax credit. Anything that can be done to preserve farmland is extremely important to agriculture in the state.

She expressed appreciation to the department for assistance in bringing a workable solution to the Project Fresh situation, whereby a pilot program will be initiated for the redemption process at farmers markets in lieu of having implemented the new system across the board, which would have cost farmers over \$900,000.

The first Detroit Food Policy Conference is being held on May 19-21, which is the same time as the National Food Policy Conference in Portland, Oregon. She plans to attend the national meeting, while her staff will cover the Detroit conference. On April 19, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary Kathleen Merrigan will be the keynote speaker for the Making Good Food Work Conference in Detroit.

Commissioner Fike pointed out an article in a recent edition of "Edible Wow" magazine which recognized the Food Systems Economic Partnership (FSEP) as the local food hero in the non-profit category. FSEP has been working on the formation of the Four Seasons Produce Cooperative, for which they have received considerable help from the

MSU Product Center. Through hoop house farming, this effort will help meet the demand for local food throughout the year.

Commissioner Kennedy reported production agriculture is at least a week away from planting. Although it will be a late season this year, it should not affect production.

Commissioner Coe added his support for efforts toward maintaining the P.A. 116 Program. With the upswing in the real estate market, developers are beginning to again pressure land owners. Recipients of P.A. 116 have not yet organized to communicate the benefits of that program, such as Peninsula Township, which has an extremely good story to tell on how that has added viability to the grape and wine industry. The Governor's office needs to be aware of where land preservation has continued to maintain and develop, in particular, value-added sectors of agriculture.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Creagh acknowledged that having the necessary land base for production agriculture is essential. The Lt. Governor's office is fully engaged with department staff in consideration of P.A. 116. Because the issue of tax incentives is a general policy issue, basic necessity for the tax incentive must be identified, specifically for the farm community. The importance of the program is recognized; however, the question as to whether it is exactly the right policy remains. We are in the initial process of this issue and the department will work toward raising visibility. This may be a good time for the Commission to review that policy and provide input into the process. Following discussion, it was determined that P.A. 116 would be a special topic for the June 15 Commission meeting; individuals or groups would be invited to provide testimony on how the program has benefited the agriculture sector; and, if legislation begins to move prior to that date, a special Commission meeting would be called to address the issue.

Director Creagh advised the Mackinac Bridge Inspection Program was part of the general fund/general purpose budget reduction for the department. MDARD is sensitive to the concerns of the UP producers and will work with them, the Commission, and the Legislature to determine how much funding may be available for that program. Commissioner Coe requested that Brad Deacon explore the potential of Homeland Security funding being delegated to maintain livestock inspections at the bridge. The department will investigate the potential of that alternative aspect. Commissioner Green noted he felt there was no longer a need for livestock inspections at the bridge and pointed out that the vast majority of cattle are coming south, where there is no inspection. Commissioner Hanson pointed out there has just been another herd identified as positive for Bovine TB and this substantiates the need to continue the bridge inspections; although there may be opportunities for reducing costs of those inspections. The Director offered to meet with Commissioner Hanson and the UP producers to discuss alternative and other marketing strategies to enhance livestock inspection.

Director Creagh reported the department is fully engaged in rural development initiatives, including assistance from various outside entities. Senior management staff will be meeting offsite this week and developing a rural development strategy will be part of that activity.

Director Wyant and he met with the food processing industry recently to align the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and MDARD strategies and responses. Their messages were well received and they advised that the agencies will work together with the industry as it moves forward.

The cervid and sporting swine programs continue to be a focus for the department and Legislative Liaison, Derek Bajema. The Legislature is currently considering bills around these industries.

The first Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Advisory Committee was held on April 1, during which partners focused on Council organization and formal creation of subcommittees and development of verification standards. Those standards will be presented to the Commission for approval at their September 2011 meeting.

The department looks forward to rescheduling of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Field Hearing on the Farm Bill. MDARD also looks forward to continuing to work with Senator Stabenow on the various issues affecting Michigan agriculture.

Director Creagh introduced Bill Bobier who recently joined the department as Senior Policy Analyst. Mr. Bobier brings a wealth of background and knowledge to the department and his focus will be primarily on Farm Bill programs, technical assistance delivery systems, non-private industrial lands, and P.A. 116. We look forward to him being a part of the MDARD team. Commissioner Coe welcomed Mr. Bobier to the department.

The Director also introduced Bonnie Moon, who was recently appointed as Director of the Laboratory Division. Ms. Moon brings a wealth of laboratory experience, understanding of the department culture, and knowledge of the Geagley Laboratory. She most recently served as Manager of the Microbiology Section at Geagley. We are looking forward to her addition to the department's leadership team and the future growth and development of MDARD's laboratory services area. The Commission welcomed Ms. Moon as the department's newest director and requested a tour of the Geagley Lab be coordinated in conjunction with their next meeting there, which is July 19, with a focus on the improvements recently made to the facility.

A Governor's Agricultural Summit is being planned, which will take place this summer. The purpose of the summit is to assure alignment between MSU, industry, and MDARD relative to agriculture bio-research and the MSU Extension Services. This is a good opportunity to ensure production agriculture identifies key priorities and develops alignment along those priorities.

The Director also highlighted some of the numerous meetings he has attended since the last Commission meeting, as well as noting those planned in the near future. MDARD participated in the Forestlands Conference which focused on land-based industries on non-industrial private lands. Ag Day at the Capitol created excitement around all types of agriculture and received accolades during the Commodity Executives meeting. In a

meeting with David Behen, the new CIO of the Department of Management, Technology, and Budget (DTMB), Mr. Behen indicated interest in the broadband issue and shared concepts around providing services to rural communities.

The Fair Food Network's "Double Up Bucks" program was a topic discussed with its President and CEO, Oran Hesterman. This grant program allows low income shoppers to double expenditure amounts on their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards at farmers markets. Potential for expanding this program to some retail settings was discussed, which would provide additional opportunities for Michigan specialty crops.

The Governor will be speaking at the Small Town and Rural Development Conference at Crystal Mountain on April 19. MDARD staff will be participating in various panels during the conference which is being held April 18-20.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Commissioner Coe recognized Kali Fox and Kirsten Simmons, who requested to address the Commission earlier in the agenda in lieu of speaking during the Public Comment time at the end of the meeting.

Kali Fox, Mid-Michigan Regional Manager for Senator Stabenow's office, noted that in addition to her Regional Manager role, she is now the Agricultural Liaison to the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee. She will be ensuring Michigan's stakeholders are connected to the Senator's new role as Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and encouraged individuals to contact her on issues of importance to the committee. Her email address is Kali_Fox@Stabenow.Senate.gov.

Since becoming chair in January, the Senator has held three official hearings in Washington, including the "Agriculture Growing America's Economy" hearing, during which Director Creagh gave testimony. All hearings are broadcast live on their website at www.ag.senate.gov and archived hearing proceedings are posted there as well. The first Farm Bill Field Hearing scheduled April 9 in East Lansing was unfortunately canceled because no budget agreement had been reached by 5:00 p.m. the day prior. It will be rescheduled in the near future. Those who are not on the Senator's agriculture mailing list were invited to give Kali their contact information.

Congress reached a 5-day temporary agreement on the budget at 11:30 p.m., Friday, April 8, and vote on the Continuing Resolution is expected later today. By next month, there should be a better indication of the budget implications for agriculture grants and programs. Director Creagh noted there are 17 grant programs that directly impact Michigan agriculture and emphasized that long-term investment in research programs will help sustain the future viability of agriculture in the state. One grant that appears vulnerable is for the USDA Wildlife Services, which would impact Wildlife Mitigation efforts in northeast Michigan. Ms. Fox confirmed the Senator supports the Bovine TB efforts and staff is working to ensure it is preserved.

Agriculture Staff Director, Chris Adamo, will be speaking at the April 27 Food Processing Summit to be held in Bath, Michigan. Other staff from the Senator's office will also be on hand that day to meet with summit participants.

Kirsten Simmons, Executive Director, Michigan Food Policy Council (MFPC), announced MFPC has been awarded a \$150,000 Kellogg Foundation grant. MFPC has had a wonderful working relationship with the Kellogg Foundation for the last several years and they have again agreed to fund the Council for the next three years. The Michigan Food Bank Council will serve as fiduciary for the grant.

MFPC is currently refocusing and realigning its efforts. Discussions include how the Council can more effectively partner with MDARD during the next three years. Strategic plans are being refined to expand some of the work MFPC has done in terms of partnerships and policy to ensure effective progress in the future.

Director Creagh noted discussion with Ms. Kirsten has also included how to align activities of MFPC with goals of the Good Food Charter and focusing on five key priorities that will continue to make a difference as the program moves forward.

Commissioner Coe supported that effort as it aligns with the Commission Resolution in support of the Good Food Charter. He complimented Ms. Kirsten on her efforts in obtaining grant funds for the program.

There was no public comment relative to agenda items.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Gordon Wenk, Chief Deputy Director

Mr. Wenk noted Legislative Liaison, Derek Bajema, is attending key legislative meetings today. He reviewed highlights of current legislation affecting agriculture, noting the repeal of the item pricing requirement was signed into law as P.A. 15 of 2011. The complaint basis for the department's investigation of scanner violations remains.

The department continues to monitor House Bill 4305 that would provide for immigration monitoring of illegal aliens in the state, on which the Michigan State Police is the lead. There has been no action since it was introduced in late February.

House Bill 4114, which would raise the Cottage Food Law threshold to \$30,000, is also being monitored by MDARD. The Department of Community Health is lead on the bill and there has been no movement since its January introduction.

Also being monitored is Senate Bill 32 that would allow licensees to sell and taste wines at farmers markets. Licensing and Regulatory Affairs is lead on the bill.

The department is working with the sponsor of House Bill 4306, relative to school food service, to clarify that the competitive bid requirement does not apply to contracts less than \$20,000 or to food contracts where revenue exceeds costs. The bill also notes that a food service contractor is encouraged to use fresh and local foods as suggested in the Farm to School Procurement Act. Commissioner Coe noted the Good Food Charter recommends ten cents per meal be designated for local food and the Commission would like Senator Stabenow's office to consider this recommendation as part the new Farm Bill process to provide security of funding for the overall school lunch program through local food procurement.

Senate Bill 27 would transfer captive cervid regulatory authority to the department from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), who is lead on the bill. The department has had several conversations with Senator Hansen, as well as working with MDNR to maintain the regulatory authority with MDNR and provide for MDARD to continue overseeing animal health behind the fence. The existing license fees are the only funding provisions included in the legislation.

The department is part of a workgroup with Representative McBroom and Speaker Bolger discussing House Bills 4503-4507 and Senate Bills 307-310 pertaining to sporting swine. MDARD has worked with MDNR in responding to animal health policies in the bill that do not line up with agreements in the sporting swine workgroup. The department supports MDNR having regulatory authority, with MDARD having responsibility for animal health behind the fence. The department continues to support robust regulation of sporting swine ranches. In response to inquiry from Commissioner Coe, Mr. Wenk advised it appears movement on the bills is likely prior to the July deadline for implementation of the Invasive Species Order. Mr. Creagh advised the difficulty is that the appropriate fees, penalties, and authorities are not included in the current bills as introduced.

Representative Daley has announced the Agriculture Caucus will begin meeting the last Wednesday each month, beginning in May. Commissioner Coe asked that Mr. Bajema advise the Commission as to how they can participate in the Agriculture Caucus meetings.

Regarding House Bill 4133, Commissioner Fike questioned how the Water Quality Alliances in the bill differ from the existing Watershed Councils. Mr. Bajema will research and respond to the Commissioner.

Representative Daley has also appointed a Food Processing Subcommittee, which has received a significant amount of testimony. A report of recommendations is anticipated and will be shared with the Commission when received.

BUDGET UPDATE: Gordon Wenk, Chief Deputy Director

Mr. Wenk reported that Budget Officer, Amy Epkey, is involved with budget development in Lansing today. He noted the budget was reported out from the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday and it is anticipated the House Appropriations Subcommittee will report out their version of the budget bill yet today. As part of the Governor's budget strategy, there was a \$3 million general fund reduction for the department. The Senate recommended a \$900,000 increase to the department, equating to a \$2.1 million reduction, with \$600,000 allocated to the Dairy Program and \$300,000 toward nursery inspections. They also indicated that within the boilerplate, there would be an unfunded mandate for Intercounty Drains.

The House version adds funding to the Producer Security and Intercounty Drains Programs. Once both versions of the budget are approved by the Senate and House, they will be sent to the Conference Committee to reconcile differences between the two versions. Legislature is working toward a May 31 budget completion deadline.

Director Creagh added there appears to be general agreement on revenue streams and tax policy. A Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled during the first part of May, which will assist in establishing targets. There is reluctance from both chambers to support any fee increases, even with industry support. Commissioners were encouraged to emphasize to legislators the advantages of an industry supported Producer Security Program, where the net result would actually be a cost savings through reduction of insurance and bond costs.

Commissioner Green pointed out not all dairy organizations have agreed to support the \$600,000 reduction for the Dairy Inspection Program should it not be restored in the budget. Mr. Wenk noted that part of the budget discussions include whether agencies should have flexibility through a rolled-up budget.

The Commission agreed to grant the department as much flexibility as possible in managing their operations, allowing the department to establish appropriate budget priorities. In addition, the department should continue to convey to the Legislature that unfunded mandates need to be eliminated. The department will continue to convey this message to the appropriate parties.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ZONING ORDER AMENDMENT: James Averill, Bovine Tuberculosis Program Manager, Animal Industry Division

Dr. Averill reviewed the Zoning Order Amendment for Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) proposed to be effective June 1, 2011. The Bovine TB Program recommends the Commission approve the signing of this order by the Director when appropriate.

As stipulated in the Animal Industry Act, the Director may develop, implement, and enforce scientifically based movement restrictions and requirements. Also as stipulated, details of the proposed zoning requirements were reviewed with the Commission during their February 9, 2011, meeting; several public input forums were conducted; and the report of the public forums was reviewed with the Commission during their March 16, 2011, meeting. He reviewed three minor changes made to the Zoning Order as a result of the public meetings: 1) additional definitions for clarity; 2) clarification of double tagging in the Modified Accredited Zone; and (3) clarification of post movement testing responsibilities.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BOVINE TB ZONING ORDER AND RECOMMEND THE DIRECTOR SIGN THE ORDER WHEN APPROPRIATE. COMMISSIONER KENNEDY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Dr. Averill reported the department confirmed this week the identification of the 52nd Bovine TB positive herd, which is in Alpena County. Discussion ensued regarding the livestock inspection program at the Mackinac Bridge. In response to question from Commissioner Coe, Dr. Averill pointed out the Bovine TB Eradication Program has been effectively moving forward to have an additional 57 counties designated with TB-Free status and there is no check station for cattle moving south across the bridge or the Indiana or Ohio borders. In response to question by Commissioner Hanson, Dr. Averill

noted that the risk reduction segments of the program have developed to the point where there is very minimal risk of Bovine TB entering the UP. As the program is moving forward, this would be an appropriate time for reassessing the value of spending program funds at the bridge. Because its removal is part of the Governor's budget, it will be discussed with USDA as part of the current proposed Memorandum of Understanding discussion.

The Commission emphasized that management of the deer herd is paramount to eradicating Bovine TB in Michigan. Dr. Averill advised the department is working toward creative actions in dealing with that problem. Director Creagh added the department clearly understands the risk to the UP, and based on previous discussion, will work with producers in the UP. The agency directors are discussing what can be done to change the dynamics and parameters around the deer population in northeast Michigan.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Fike, Dr. Averill advised the proposed budget reduction to the UDSA Wildlife Services would impact the Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project in Michigan. If in fact reduced, that service would no longer have the manpower to implement new plans and maintain the verification process.

Dr. Averill announced USDA Wildlife Services is hosting a meeting in Lansing on May 3 regarding the renovation of the National TB and Brucellosis Program rules and regulations. He will advise the Commission once details are known.

<u>FOOD SAFETY TRACEABILITY SYSTEMS:</u> Ed Weber, Vice President of Sales and Marketing, ToolWorx Information Products, Inc.

Mr. Weber introduced other members of his team, Brad Oyster, President of ToolWorx Information Products, and David O'Reilly, President of Capital Communications. Mr. Weber noted that ToolWorx provides expertise in the collection of needed data for food traceability and Capital Communications assists in the development of the infrastructure required to transport that data.

ToolWorx has been working with numerous food-based companies in Michigan. The two main traceability initiatives existing today are the Food Safety Modernization Act, which is driven by government, and the Produce Traceability Initiative (PTI), which is being driven by customers. From a compliance and adherence standpoint, PTI will have a greater impact on producers on a short-term basis. Whether for a food processor or direct seller, ToolWorx TWLot Food Trace system can provide complete traceability.

PTI requirements already completed are manufacturer code and global verification numbers for all products. Later this year, case and pallet coding and basic reader storage of that information will be required. With the case level information being added, a retailer can identify the product, the grower, and even the specific row in which that product was grown. Pallet labeling is providing challenges to the industry, because products, lot numbers, and the various combinations of those need to be on that single pallet. And then, each label sequence needs to be rebuilt for each reuse of a pallet.

ToolWorx is currently the only U.S. company placing all of the required technology inside of a programmable industrial printer, which eliminates the need for a computer. Industry

needs only the printer in the field to produce all required labeling. Industry adoption challenges that need to be met include the short time frame to meet requirements and customer demand, technology options based on specific environment, company-owned farms versus contract growers, and overall costs. Costs can vary from \$2,000 upwards to \$12,000, depending upon required components. They are working with customers to help them determine how to rollout a system to best meet their needs. ToolWorx is a Michigan-based company that can offer affordable one-piece "smart" labeling systems, "farm to fork" traceability solutions, networks to fit any size installation, and implementation services nationwide.

Commissioner Green pointed out that producers bear the cost of providing traceability, but customers are not willing to pay anything additional for those products. Mr. Weber advised that the response from industry is that the producer gains the benefits of reputation, brand protection, and food safety.

The Commission emphasized the need for developing a system where the cost can be shared – not born entirely by the producers – as well as a single-based system to provide consistency across the industry.

Commissioner Coe thanked ToolWorx and Capital Communications for their educational presentation. It is encouraging to see a Michigan-based company that built on knowledge from the automotive industry and developed that technology for other industries – an example of the private sector finding solutions. He suggested to Ms. Fox that this presentation might be of interest to Senator Stabenow.

BATTLE CREEK UNLIMITED OVERVIEW AND ROLE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Karl Dehn, President and CEO, Battle Creek Unlimited

Mr. Dehn advised the mission of Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) is to facilitate regional wealth creation through human, economic, and community development, by stimulating a diverse civic culture, fostering new ideas, organizational models, and healthy lifestyles. BCU was established in 1972, is a non-profit organization, and with its 43-member board of directors, represents a cross-section of Battle Creek. Relating to rural development, BCU pursues a strategy of urban regeneration where they utilize brownfield credits, land acquisition, and updating of the infrastructure to provide viable development opportunities in the city. This allows farmland, recreational land, and wilderness areas to be preserved rather than mindless consumption of green-space throughout the county. The costs of energy will militate against rural green-space consumption and drive development back into the cities. This is one of the underlying justifications for their Downtown Transformation Initiative.

Initially, they were charged with developing a 3,000 acre master plan for transformation of the former Fort Custer Military Base into a modern international and domestic industrial park. That park is now home to 90 companies, of which 23 are from Europe and Asia. Since initiation of that project, they have evolved into a city economic development organization. BCU stresses the importance of conducting economic development that is relevant to community competencies and comparative advantages.

Their target sectors include aviation/aerospace, homeland security/defense, food sciences/food protection, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and education and training. He reviewed details of various city-wide economic development projects, noting that about 75 percent of BCU's activities are centered on retention. They are beginning to see an overall economic recovery for many of the companies in the area.

The Battle Creek Downtown Transformation Project is centered on the fact that Battle Creek is a food science, innovation-growth community with sustainable infrastructures that nurture family friendly, healthy, and educated lifestyles. Because one of the key pillars of that transformation is food protection, the first innovation growth strategy was creation of the Global Food Protection Institute (GFPI) in mid-2009, bringing together over 1,300 local, state, and federal food trained professionals from 47 states. GFPI's mission is to facilitate the enrichment of information, generation of new ideas, and acceleration of technologies that will enhance the safety of the global food supply. To achieve its mission, GFPI has established the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI), the Imagined Food Futures (IFF), and the Emerging Technology Accelerator (ETA). Financial support for GFPI is provided by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Food protection and rural development tie closely together in the Battle Creek area. It is located in a region that powers Michigan's strengths in the leading production of 45 different fruits and vegetables. Within a 100 mile radius of Battle Creek, is the richest and most diverse region of food processing in the U.S. And, it is situated in Calhoun County where agriculture constitutes 37% of the local economy, establishing a real model of "food to fork" chain of food safety. In just under two years, IFPTI has enjoyed considerable success and he reviewed some of those milestones.

Private investment in the Battle Creek Downtown Transformation Project has been impressive. Covance opened a food testing division in Battle Creek in October of 2010 with a \$15 million investment, adding over 50 new jobs. In 2009, W.K. Kellogg Institute completed a \$54 million downtown expansion, and Kellogg's headquarters campus consolidation brought 600 employees through a \$5 million project to downtown in December 2010.

To better align with employer opportunities and ensure a supply of talent, education expansion innovations include the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center relocation, the St. Philip and Battle Creek Public Schools renovations, and alignment of Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, Kellogg Community College, and Miller College with food science and food protection opportunities. He reviewed the numerous business expansions, relocations, and new establishments in downtown that provide the amenities and infrastructure to sustain the business growth.

Additional information can be found at the city's website, <u>www.downtownbattlecreek.com</u> and the Facebook sites at Battle Creek Unlimited and DowntownBTLCRK.

Commissioner Coe congratulated Mr. Dehn on the success of BCU and noted some of the themes discovered here apply toward the Commission's efforts that focus on

regional planning. Director Creagh thanked Mr. Dehn for the time he has spent with the department and Commission. As we discuss reinventing Michigan around food and agriculture, Battle Creek already has the answer, which can be coupled with the development of regional economic strategies. Mr. Dehn advised he looks forward to working more closely with MDARD staff, noting there is great opportunity for collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD PROTECTION TRAINING INSTITUTE OVERVIEW AND THE INTEGRATED FOOD SAFETY SYSTEM: Gerald Wojtala, Executive Director, International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI)

Mr. Wojtala welcomed and thanked the Commission for visiting today. He noted that something which MDARD has advocated for, since the 50-state meeting in 1998, is the formation of an Integrated National Food Safety System. The department has played a prominent role in working with the various key government agencies and stakeholders toward that goal. The effort recognized that state and local government resources existed that were underleveraged and work began toward developing a nation-wide standardized system that would lead to the federal government's role in funding a food safety system. Training becomes an integral part of creating that standardized system and becomes very prominent in the 2011 Food Safety Modernization Act, which includes 17 new training area requirements.

In this era of thrifty budget management, investing the country's limited tax dollars on building the training infrastructure for the Integrated National Food Safety System is the most cost-effective way to ensure the nation's food supply is safe. To help assure both comparable and competent performance of staff at the international, federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal levels, we must develop and implement both a national safety training system and a national certification system. IFPTI identified and classified the over 700 existing food safety courses that currently exist. The challenges of those existing courses include lack of standardization, availability, consistency, lack of peer review, updating to current policies, duplication, and contradictions. Current concepts of course development and delivery include a blended training format; utilizing the best training modality needed to assure the most efficient transfer of knowledge and skills; incorporating lessons learned and experiences from real life – case studies; distance learning; and hands on learning as needed.

IFPTI's role in building the Integrated Food Safety System training infrastructure is four-fold: 1) develop a training network to provide technical, management, and leadership training to regulatory and public health officials; 2) serve as a hub for the administration of the training network; 3) develop and deliver standards-based training programs not currently offered; and 4) build an instructor cadre. IFPTI would not be the only source of training in the country, but would build and administer the training network. He briefly reviewed specifics of the first National Food Protection curriculum, noting there are numerous levels and various programs and professional tracks within the career-spanning integrated training process. IFPTI has already provided many key deliverables and noted that industry involvement has been, and will continue to be, instrumental in developing courses and programs, as well as assistance with the training itself.

Last fall, IFPTI signed a charter with eight other universities across the country, all of which have food safety training centers within their institutes. This consortium will begin to leverage resources for training opportunities. To date, a total of 1,234 students have participated in IFPTI courses, from every corner of the U.S. and some foreign countries. For the most part, instructors will be trained in Battle Creek and subsequently provide courses closer to home for students. Because states will need to have trained and certified inspectors in order to qualify for federal inspection program dollars, training becomes a vital component.

Mr. Wojtala advised that additional information about IFPTI can be found at <u>ifpti.org</u> on the Internet, including Facebook, Twitter, and other social media sites.

In response to inquiry from Commissioner Coe, Mr. Wojtala advised the IFPTI concept was developed because nothing like it exists and it truly is filling a significant need on an international basis. He added that MDARD actually began the process by convening a stakeholder meeting to discover ways to create a food safety training center.

Director Creagh advised this is an example of what makes MDARD unique. He credited Mr. Wojtala for effectively bringing the various stakeholders together to bring the concept to fruition. One of the key reasons for its success is Mr. Wojtala's work with the department and the Association of Food and Drug Officials, as well as the respect and credibility he brings to the table. It was a big loss to MDARD when he left, but a great gain for Michigan in having a crown jewel for food protection training in our state. This is another great example of leveraging assets on both a local and national basis and the department will continue to be full partners in that effort.

Mr. Wojtala requested support from the Commission as IFPTI moves forward in its continued discussions with FDA in efforts toward building a complete national food protection training framework.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES

Commissioner Coe reviewed a retirement resolution before the Commission recognizing Terri Smith.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GREEN MOVED THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING TERRY SMITH BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES FOR HER LONG AND HEALTHY RETIREMENT. COMMISSIONER FIKE SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Coe reviewed a resolution before the Commission recognizing David Kleweno, who after having served for 15 years as Director of the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Michigan Field Office, moved to Washington, D.C., to accept his new assignment as the Branch Chief within the Survey Development and Support Branch of the Census and Survey Division for NASS.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER FIKE MOVED THE RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DAVID KLEWENO BE ADOPTED WITH BEST WISHES IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVORS. COMMISSIONER GREEN SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was requested.

ADJOURN

MOTION: COMMISSIONER HANSON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. COMMISSIONER KENNEDY SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attachments:

- A) AgendaB) Agriculture and Rural Development Commission Meeting Minutes March 16, 2011
- C) Growing UP Agricultural Association Letter

- D) Director Keith Creagh Issues of Interest Report
 E) Legislative Status March 2011
 F) Zoning Order for Establishment of Zones for Bovine Tuberculosis, Effective June 1, 2011
- G) ToolWorx Information Products, Inc., PowerPoint Presentation
- H) ToolWorx Product Flyer
 I) Battle Creek Unlimited Economic Development Overview PowerPoint Presentation
 J) Battle Creek Downtown Transformation Project Fact Sheet
- K) International Food Protection Training Institute PowerPoint Presentation
- L) International Food Protection Training Institute Media Kit
- M) Resolution for Terri Marie Smith
- N) Resolution for David D. Kleweno